

NEW SHOREHAM SCHOOL COMMITTEE MEETING

Block Island School

January 31, 2007

7:00 P.M.

The New Shoreham School Committee met in open session on Wednesday, January 31, 2007, in the media center of the Block Island School. Secretary Annie Hall called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M. The following members were present: Shea Butcher, Annie Hall, Sean McGarry, and Richard Tretheway. William Padien was not in attendance. Leslie Ryan was also present.

Principal Search Committee

Maureen Flaherty and Gloria Redlich were appointed to the principal search committee, but for various personal reasons are unable to continue to serve on this committee. A motion (Hall, Tretheway) to appoint Jiffy Blansfield and Hank Lemoine to the principal search committee carried with a vote of 4-0.

Request from BISF to Install Vending Machine

The Block Island School Friends requested permission to install a water vending machine inside the gym. Any money raised would go to BISF with first donation consideration going to the school's athletic programs. The current profit on a case of water is approximately \$17. It was suggested that the machine not run during

the summer when the electricity costs are so high, but it was stated that there is probably a temperature control on the machine that could be set at a warmer temperature. A motion (Butcher, Hall) to allow the Block Island School Friends to install a water vending machine in the gym, but to search for a machine that is as energy efficient as possible carried with a vote of 3-1 with Sean McGarry voting in the negative.

Facility Use Fees

Annie Hall reported that some members of the School Committee felt the town should be charged for the use of the facility at night because of our high overhead. It was decided that the fee for the children's programs could be waived, but the adults should pay a user's fee. Town Manager Nancy Dodge asked if a moratorium could be put on the fees until July 1 because no funds were budgeted for this purpose. Mrs. Hall stated that she had no problem waiting until July 1 to increase the fees. Mrs. Dodge stated that the town provides nearly 100 percent of the school budget and the money would be coming out of the same pocket, the taxpayers. She is hoping the new town hall will be completed by the end of March and the town meetings will be held there. Mr. McGarry stated that we are in a crunch year with the 5.25 percent cap, but Mrs. Dodge reported that the town is being held to that same cap, which also includes the town's support for the school. Mr. McGarry feels that the town should request fee waivers for each use of the building, but others felt this would be a lot of paperwork for not a large return. He also mentioned he would not be

able to explain to parents why they had to chip in for field trips when the adults of the community did not have to pay to use of the gym. Mrs. Dodge reminded the committee members that the town does not charge them for the use of Heinz Field. It was felt that an agreement could be reached with the recreation department collecting a user's fee for the various adult activities that are held at the school to cover some of the high utility costs. It was suggested that this item be revisited in April.

Development of Faulkner Property

This item was tabled until the April meeting, but Mrs. Dodge stated that at the present time no proposals were on the table for the use of the Faulkner property.

2007-2008 Budget Work Session

Nancy Cole reported that the budget is hovering just below \$4 million.

She explained the various cuts over the last several weeks that reduced the budget by approximately \$110,000. The new copier was eliminated and there will be one less principal advisor position. The physical education position was eliminated as well as an increase for the guidance counselor. She was able to reduce the amount for the bus monitors because one bus will not be used for 57 days during the winter months. The athletic budget was reconfigured and some money was cut from Close-Up.

Public Hearing – 2007-08 General Operating Budget Proposal

A motion (Hall, Tretheway) at 7:40 P.M. to open the public hearing on

the 2007-2008 general operating budget carried with a vote of 4-0.

There were no questions from the public regarding the 2007-2008 general operating budget. Mrs. Ryan stated she was happy we did not have to cut positions or worry about class size and student/teacher ratios like other school districts in developing our budget.

A motion (Hall, Tretheway) at 7:45 P.M. to close the public hearing on the 2007-2008 general operating budget carried with a vote of 4-0.

2007-2008 General Operating Budget – Review and Approval

A motion (Hall, McGarry) to table the approval of the 2007-2008 general operating budget until the meeting scheduled for February 12 carried with a vote of 4-0.

Executive Session

A motion (Hall, Tretheway) at 7:46 P.M. to go into to executive session pursuant to Rhode Island General Laws 42-46-4, 5(a)(2) for contract negotiations carried with a vote of 4-0.

Open Session

A motion (Hall, Butcher) at 8:24 P.M. to return to open session carried with a vote of 4-0.

A motion (Hall, Butcher) to seal the minutes of the executive session

carried with a vote of 4-0.

Adjournment

A motion (Hall, Butcher) at 8:25 P.M. to adjourn carried with a vote of 4-0.

Marsha L. Gutierrez, Clerk

Date approved: 2/12/2007